10/22/71

Dear Bud,

Not long after Mary and Jim and I finished talking, the call you placed tonight, I got a call from Jerry in Marietta. He rambled and chatted and gossiped, but often it wasn't long distance. This makes me think it was on Stoner's or the NAA's phone, hence I presume the FBI and possibly the ADL also enjoyed it. Especially Jerry's opinion, which he says is also Stoner's, that the liberal Supreme Court Justices are better on questions of the legal rights of the accused and conservatives are no damned good. They may even have been a bit perplexed by my effort to get him to distinguish between real and fake conservatives, to get him to understand that all those styling themselves conservatives really are not.

By the time I had persuaded him that we had explored everything, including the charges pending against Al Capp and that what is in Honor Thy Father about the FBI is not really all that new, my supper was at room temperature.

His real purpose in calling was to ask me to meet him in Knoxville instead of him coming here. He had several reasons. This includes seeing Jim ie on several successive days - at least two - which he says this new warden permits even though it is not strictly in accord with regulations. Apparently also figuring in this is his desire to see Colm at Leavenworth and to spend a bit of time with Carol all before going to Chicago, where he seems to have a job waiting.

There is some merit in my being with him where I can't be distracted by the work I would have on my mind.

I told him I can't do it as soon as he wants, which is in two or three weeks, whenever Stoner gets back from whatever the Rand deal is he is now enjoying in Germany. I told him it would be at least three weeks before I can clean up the minimum, possibly four or five. He is willing to wait that long with Stoner, meet me at the airport, has it all figured out that there is a certain Holiday Inn near the jail where we can stay, etc. I also told him it would depend on my being able to arrange the financing.

He seems pretty anxious. I don't know if it more than curiosity to meet me. But I do think I should have seen Jimmy long before this and that time will roughly coincide with the two months after which he said he would give me what Stoner is supposed to be checking for him.

All I agreed to is to try, and I did say what is the truth, that I have been wanting to see Jimmy for some time.

If this does come to pass, it may also coincide with the side trip you wanted me to take earlier, when I said it was premature. I would not know whether or not it is premature until then. But should it then seem that it no longer is, the cost would be considerably less, in every way, than making a special trip to do it. When we talk about this it should include the possible improvisation. There are other possibilities as things that Jerry earlier arranged in Knoxville, that could probably be done at the same time.

What Mary reported overhearing on her way in from the airport tonight is gratifying. It is long overdue, but if it avoids this kind of thing in the future, it does that much good. If it had been done earlier, the first time well-intentioned Dick opened his yap, it would have been much less hurtful to all of us and must less embarrassing to him.

Sincerely,